

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Examiner's Office Action dated September 27, 2004. Of the 69 claims pending at that time, claims 1-3, 33-36, 46-48, and 58-60 were rejected, while claims 4-32, 37-45, 49-57, and 61-69 were objected to. In light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of all pending claims.

Claims 8-11 and 13-14 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being in improper form. Applicant has cancelled these claims without prejudice.

Claims 6, 20, and 21 were objected to because of informalities. Applicant has amended claim 6 to overcome the informality noted by the Examiner. Claims 20 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 34-36, 46-48, and 58-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Number 2002/0171759 issued to Handjojo et al ("Handjojo"). Claims 1-3 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Handjojo. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include limitations that are not taught or fairly suggested within Handjojo. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Handjojo.

Independent claim 34 has been amended to incorporate claim 37 and intervening claim 36. Insofar as claim 37 was indicated as objectionable, it follows that claim 34 is now in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims have either been cancelled from independent claims 1 and 34. Any claim cancelled by this office action response has done so without prejudice.



PATENT

CONCLUSION

Applicant(s) submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450, on 12/1/04.

[Signature] 12/1/04
Attorney for Applicant(s) Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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